

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 042104

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TO USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 042104

NOFORN - CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1

TAGS: PFOR, CH, US, MY, JA, TH

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR'S TALK WITH CH'IAO KUAN-HUA

NOFORN EXCEPT AUSTRALIA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF CABLE FROM AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR
FITZGERALD PASSED DEPARTMENT BY AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF. QUOTE

2. FOLLOWING ARE MAIN POINTS FROM DISCUSSION WITH VICE-
FOREIGN MINISTER CH'IAO KUAN-HUA AT DINNER YESTERDAY,
23 FEBRUARY, COVERING CHINA'S RELATIONS WITH THAILAND,
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PAGE 02 STATE 042104

MALAYSIA, JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES, MIDDLE EAST AND

EFFECTS OF CURRENT STRUGGLE ON FOREIGN POLICY.

3. CH'IAO WAS EXPLICITLY EMPHATIC THAT LIN-CONFUCIUS STRUGGLE WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY CHANGE EXISTING COURSE OF FOREIGN POLICY BECAUSE, HE SAID, FOREIGN POLICY IS DIRECTED PERSONALLY BY MAO. (INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, MFA, AT KAUNDA BANQUET WENT OUT OF ITS WAY TO MAKE SAME POINT TO PRESS.) THIS STILL MEANS, OF COURSE, THAT MAO COULD ALWAYS CHANGE THE TACTICS RADICALLY WITHIN THE LINE, BUT CH'IAO GAVE IT AS HIS PERSONAL ASSURANCE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE AND HIS EXAMPLES BOTH HERE AND THROUGH-OUT THE EVENING CONCERNED CONTINUITY OF TACTICS (E.G.

RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES) AS WELL AS LINE. IN GENERAL, FROM A DISCUSSION WHICH TOUCHED ON MOST WORLD PROBLEMS I COULD NEITHER DETECT NOR EXTRACT ANY STATEMENT REFLECTING DEPARTURE FROM CHINESE ANALYSES OF 1973 AND CH'IAO'S EMPHASIS WAS STILL ON PRIMACY OF STATE-TO-STATE RELATIONS.

4. ONE CURIOUS POINT WAS THAT UNLIKE TEN HSIAO-P'ING AND CHI P'ENG-FEI WHO IN EARLY JANUARY TOLD JAPANESE VISITORS THE PRINCIPAL ENEMIES OF THE SOVIET UNION IN THE EAST WERE THE UNITED STATES, JAPAN AND CHINA IN THAT ORDER, CH'IAO GAVE THE OLD STANDARD INTERPRETATION WITH CHINA AS THE MAIN ENEMY IN THE EAST (SOVIETS STILL "FEINTING IN THE EAST TO ATTACK IN THE WEST").

5. CHINA-THAILAND. CH'IAO SAID REPORTS ON DAWEE'S CONVERSATION WITH CHOU EN-LAI "DID NOT ACCORD" WITH WHAT WAS SAID (BUT HE DID NOT SAY THEY WERE ENTIRELY UN-FOUNDED). POSITION WAS THAT CHINA WAS NOT MAKING REVOLUTION IN THAILAND AND DID NOT HAVE THE CAPACITY TO DO SO, AND REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES WERE THE THAI'S OWN AFFAIR. CH'IAO WAS CAREFUL TO BLAME THAI PRESS FOR MIS-REPORTING CHOU, AND RECALLED THAI PRESS "MISREPORTS" ON CH'IAO'S NEW YORK CONVERSATION WITH CHATTICHA TO SUPPORT HIS POINT.

6. CHINA-MALAYSIA. CH'IAO REITERATED CHINESE VIEW THAT
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 042104

MAIN PROBLEMS WERE SOLVED (SUGGESTING CHINESE MAY NOT RAISE SERIOUS OBJECTIONS TO LATEST MALAYSIAN POSITION NOW BEFORE THEM) AND RECOGNITION WOULD COME SOON, AND SAID CHINESE WERE EXPECTING RAZAK IN PEKING BEFORE LONG.

7. CHINA-JAPAN. FROM DISCUSSION OF SOUTH CHINA SEA ISLANDS, CH'IAO SAID SENKAKUS WERE AN ISSUE "OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE" IN CHINA-JAPAN RELATIONS AND THAT

CHINA WAS QUITE CONFIDENT IT WOULD BE SOLVED IN TIME AND PEACEFULLY (NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY IN TOKYO HAS APPARENTLY HAD EVEN MORE EXPLICIT INFORMATION THAN THAT GIVEN BY OGURA--TOKYO'S 501--TO EFFECT THAT THERE WAS AN UNDERSTANDING TO PUT THE SENKAKUS ISSUE ON ICE WHEN TANAKA VISITED PEKING IN SEPTEMBER 1972).

8. SURPRISINGLY, CH'IAO WAS UNUSUALLY SCEPTICAL ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF JAPAN BEING DRAWN INTO SOVIET ORBIT OR BEING PRESSED BY ENERGY CRISIS TO DEPENDENCE ON SOVIET UNION.

9. CHINA-UNITED STATES. CH'IAO CLAIMED CHINESE LIAISON OFFICE CHIEF HUANG CHEN RETURNED TO CHINA LAST YEAR FOR CONSULTATIONS AND BECAUSE HE IS ILL, ADDING THAT BRUCE WAS ABSENT FROM PEKING BECAUSE HE WAS ON AN ASSIGNMENT FOR KISSINGER. THIS WAS BY WAY OF REFUTING FOREIGN REPORTS THAT THERE HAD BEEN A WORSENING IN SINO-UNITED STATES RELATIONS, WHICH WERE "EXACTLY" AS THEY HAD BEEN BEFORE.

10. MIDDLE EAST. CH'IAO WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF SUPERPOWER ROLES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND OF PEACE FORCE. HE HOPED OIL EXPORTING COUNTRIES WOULD KEEP PRICE OF OIL HIGH TO FORCE OTHER COUNTRIES INTO EXPLOITATION OF THEIR OWN RESOURCES.

11. COMMENT. DESPITE SUDDEN ACCEPTANCE OF MY INVITATION AND EVEN MORE SUDDEN ADVANCE OF DATE AND SOME FASTIDIOUSNESS ABOUT POSSIBLE GUEST LIST (MEMO BY BAG), ATTENDANCE OF CH'IAO AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS SUGGESTS PRESS CLAIMS ABOUT OFFICIALS' WITHDRAWAL FROM SOCIAL CONTACT WITH FOREIGN COMMUNITY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 042104

MAY BE A LITTLE PREMATURE. (WE KNOW OF SOME UNEXPECTED REFUSALS AND WITHDRAWALS, WHICH MAY BE EXPLAINED BY MEETINGS AS MUCH AS BY FEAR OF CONTAMINATION.) THERE APPEARS ALSO TO HAVE BEEN SOME CONSCIOUS ATTEMPT ALL ROUND TO REASSURE RESIDENT FOREIGNERS.

12. THIS BEING SAID, CH'IAO WAS NOT IN ALL RESPECTS HIS USUAL SELF. HE DRANK LITTLE (WHICH MAY BE EXPLAINED BY HIS VERY RECENT SECOND MARRIAGE--TO CHANG HAN-CHIH, WHO ON FRIDAY LAST JOINED THE INNER CIRCLE AROUND MAO FOR THE KAUNDA MEETING). HE ACCEPTED SOME PROMPTING ON POLITICAL QUESTIONS FROM LIN P'ING, AND WHERE IN THE PAST I HAVE TWICE SEEN CH'IAO IGNORE SUMMONSES TO THE PREMIER, ON THIS OCCASION HE LEFT WHEN LIN P'ING SAID IT WAS TIME TO GO. HE DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD SOME

INTESTINAL ILLNESS, WHICH MAY BE THE EXPLANATION.

UNQUOTE

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